

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of selecting a printer from a plurality of printers to fulfill a print job of a user, the method comprising the steps of:
 - registering a printing capability of the printers;
 - receiving a print request for the print job from the user;
 - determining which of the printers have the printing capability to fulfill the print job, including comparing the print request for the print job with the printing capability of the printers;
 - compiling a list of at least one of the printers which has the printing capability to fulfill the print job; and
 - presenting the list of the at least one of the printers to the user.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of registering the printing capability includes registering the printing capability of the printers with a printer selection system controller, wherein the step of receiving the print request includes receiving the print request for the print job from the user at the printer selection system controller, and wherein the step of determining which of the printers have the printing capability to fulfill the print job includes determining via the printer selection system controller which of the printers have the printing capability to fulfill the print job.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
 - linking the user and the printer selection system controller via a communication link, wherein the step of presenting the list includes presenting the list of the at least one of the printers to the user via the communication link.
4. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
 - receiving a printer selection for the print job from the user at the printer selection system controller, wherein the printer selection includes a selected printer from the list of the at least one of the printers.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:
linking the user and the printer selection system controller via a communication link, wherein the step of receiving the printer selection includes receiving the printer selection for the print job from the user via the communication link.
6. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:
distributing the print request to the selected printer.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:
linking the printers and the printer selection system controller via a communication link, wherein the step of distributing the print request includes distributing the print request to the selected printer via the communication link.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
presenting to the user a user interface including at least one input field representing at least one option for the print job, wherein the step of receiving the print request includes receiving at least one attribute for the print job as specified with the at least one input field of the user interface.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the print request includes receiving at least one of a number of copies, a print medium, a printing quality option, a printing layout, a color printing option, a finishing option, a printer location, a printing priority, and an archive option for the print job.
10. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
linking the user and the printer selection system controller via a communication link, wherein the step of receiving the print request includes receiving the print request for the print job from the user via the communication link.

11. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

associating a data file for the print job with the print request for the print job, wherein the step of receiving the print request includes receiving the print request and the data file from the user at the printer selection system controller, and wherein the step of determining which of the printers have the printing capability to fulfill the print job includes comparing the print request and the data file with the printing capability of the printers.

12. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

linking the printers and the printer selection system controller via a communication link, wherein the step of registering the printing capability includes registering the printing capability of the printers with the printer selection system controller via the communication link.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of registering the printing capability includes registering at least one of an identification, a print medium capability, a print quality capability, a printing layout capability, a color printing capability, a finishing capability, a printing speed, a printer queue, and an archive printing capability of the printers.

14. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of selecting a printer from a plurality of printers to fulfill a print job of a user, the method comprising:

registering a printing capability of the printers;

receiving a print request for the print job from the user;

determining which of the printers have the printing capability to fulfill the print job, including comparing the print request for the print job with the printing capability of the printers;

compiling a list of at least one of the printers which has the printing capability to fulfill the print job; and

presenting the list of the at least one of the printers to the user.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a printer selection for the print job from the user, wherein the printer selection includes a selected printer from the list of the at least one of the printers.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises:

distributing the print request to the selected printer.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises:

presenting to the user a user interface including at least one input field representing at least one option for the print job, wherein receiving the print request includes receiving at least one attribute for the print job as specified with the at least one input field of the user interface.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises:

associating a data file for the print job with the print request for the print job, wherein receiving the print request includes receiving the print request and the data file from the user, and wherein determining which of the printers have the printing capability to fulfill the print job includes comparing the print request and the data file with the printing capability of the printers.

19. A system for selecting a printer from a plurality of printers to fulfill a print job of a user, the system comprising:

a memory device configured to have a printing capability of the printers stored therein; and

a processor adapted to compare a print request for the print job with the printing capability of the printers to determine which of the printers have the printing capability to fulfill the print job, wherein the processor is adapted to compile a list of at least one of the printers which has the printing capability to fulfill the print job.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the memory device and the processor are included in a printer selection system controller, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive the print request for the print job from the user and present the list of the at least one of the printers to the user.

21. The system of claim 20, further comprising:

a communication link configured to link the printer selection system controller and the user, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive the print request for the print job from the user via the communication link and present the list of the at least one of the printers to the user via the communication link.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive a printer selection for the print job from the user, the printer selection including a selected printer from the list of the at least one of the printers, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to distribute the print request for the print job to the selected printer.

23. The system of claim 22, further comprising:

a communication link configured to link the printer selection system controller and the printers, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to distribute the print request for the print job to the selected printer via the communication link.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive the printing capability of the printers from the printers via the communication link.

25. The system of claim 19, wherein the printing capability of the printers includes at least one of an identification, a print medium capability, a printing quality capability, a printing layout capability, a color printing capability, a finishing capability, a printing speed, a printer queue, and an archive capability of the printers.

26. The system of claim 19, further comprising:
a user interface including at least one input field representing at least one option for the print job, wherein the user interface includes at least one of a number of copies, a print medium, a printing quality option, a printing layout, a color printing option, a finishing option, a printer location, a printing priority, and an archive field.

27. The system of claim 19, wherein the print request includes at least one of a number of copies, a print medium, a printing quality option, a printing layout, a color printing option, a finishing option, a printer location, a printing priority, and an archive option for the print job.

28. The system of claim 20, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive the print request and a data file for the print job, and wherein the processor is adapted to compare the print request and the data file with the printing capability of the printers to determine which of the printers have the printing capability to fulfill the print job.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive a printer selection for the print job from the user, the printer selection including a selected printer from the list of the at least one of the

printers, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to distribute the print request and the data file for the print job to the selected printer.